

# **Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Conservation Strategy (CS) Workgroup Meeting**

April 23, 2007, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Resources Agency Bldg., Room 1131

## **Draft Meeting Notes**

**Co-chairs:** Walt Wadlow and Anthony Saracino

### **Associated documents/handouts:**

- Agenda
- Handout #1- Draft Conservation Strategy Alternatives Descriptions
- Handout #2- Draft Table of Conservation Strategy Elements
- Handout #3- Draft Short-listing Criteria
- Handout #4- Draft Proposed Natural Communities
- Handout #5- Table of Splittail Stressor Importance
- Potential Interim or “No-regrets” Delta Projects (handout only; provided after meeting in electronic form)
- Draft 4/16 CS Workgroup Meeting Notes

### **Action Items and Key Recommendations**

- The Workgroup agreed that the Draft Proposed Natural Communities list will serve as the foundation for the baseline ecological report, as required under NCCPA. SAIC is in the process of preparing that report.
- Science Workshop for Delta Vision will be held 5/4; BDCP will coordinate with them to ensure consistency with BDCP strategy and science process.
- Workgroup suggested that short-listing criteria be applied to bundles of conservation elements rather than CSA's. SAIC will draft a list of element bundles and distribute it to the Workgroup by Wednesday 4/25. Workgroup Co-chairs will receive and consolidate comments from members by Monday 4/30 and convey key comments to SAIC for incorporation into the short-listing analysis.
- SAIC will apply short-listing criteria to the elements and to bundles of elements and will present the analysis to the Workgroup for discussion on 5/7 and 5/14.

### **Workgroup Schedule and Products (Paul Cylinder, SAIC)**

Today:

- Final review and additions to long list of CSA's and elements.
- Short-listing approach and analytical process discussion and input

5/7:

- Presentation of analysis conducted in intervening two weeks
- Discuss how to build the short list

5/14:

- Further discussion of building the short list, adding specificity to the new CSA's.

- Agree on short-list of CSA's that will be recommended at the 5/18 SC meeting for carrying forward into full impact analysis.

### **Discussion of Draft CSA's and Elements, Proposed Short-Listing Process**

Today is the last day to propose new CSA's or elements. Two sets of additions were proposed, including No-regrets actions and Reduced-exports alternative. NGO's provided a handout list of No-Regrets actions that they suggest should be included in any Conservation Strategy selected by BDCP, including, e.g., habitat restoration projects, tule restoration, and emergency response. The No-regrets list will be provided electronically to the CS members. The Workgroup also discussed adding a "Reduced Exports/ Demand Reduction" bundle to the current list and may include it for short-listing analysis. SB27 (Simitian bill) includes reduced exports as one of five possible Delta management options.

SAIC presented their proposed process for applying short-listing criteria to the CSA's and elements. The criteria would be applied to each CSA/element and species using professional judgment based on current knowledge of how stressors affect species and how the Delta operates. Written analysis will take the form of narrative description. The relative benefits will be presented for comparison by the Workgroup and SC. Tables will summarize salient points. The analysis will not include analysis of elements or bundles of elements that are mutually incompatible, and an incompatibility matrix will be included to aid members in developing CSA's.

There was in-depth discussion about the level of detail, content, and structure of the groups of elements to which short-listing criteria will be applied. Members recommended disaggregating current list of CSA's into smaller bundles of elements for analysis, recognizing impracticability of analyzing each element independently. Discussion followed about how best to categorize and build bundles. SAIC will propose a set of bundles, based around a primary element or set of elements that would logically be implemented together. That list will be distributed to the Workgroup by Wednesday 4/25. Workgroup Co-chairs will receive and consolidate comments from members by Monday 4/30 and convey key comments to SAIC for incorporation into the short-listing analysis, which will be completed by 5/7. Bundles will facilitate the Workgroup's analysis of different operational and hydrologic strategies. See also Action Item and Key Recommendations.

### **Handout #4: Proposed natural communities list (Paul Cylinder- SAIC)**

SAIC is currently preparing the ecological baseline report; NCCPA requires that the report describe key natural communities in the Planning Area. The three main ones included in the Proposed Natural Communities list (tidal aquatic, tidal freshwater emergent, and valley riparian) are the same as those used by CALFED that fall within the legal delta. Additional proposed communities that will be described in the report include some terrestrial and riparian habitat types that would be encountered if upstream/downstream measures are included in BDCP strategy (i.e., outside the Planning Area). See also Action Items and Key Recommendations.

**Meeting Notes review**

**4/16** Clarify that Delta Corridors/Split Delta Draft CSA #10 could be a dual conveyance/interim option. Notes approved pending those changes.

**Public Comments**

No public comments at this meeting.

**Next Meeting**

Monday 5/7, same time and location. No meeting next week.